

REMARKS

At the outset, Applicants point out that pending claims 14, 38, 64 and 68 are not grouped. In the next Office Action, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner clarify the groups to which these currently ungrouped claims belong.

Applicants also expressly reserve the right to prosecute the subject matter of Groups II-IV in one or more divisional applications should this prove to be necessary.

Regarding the traversal, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has not shown the various groups do not relate to a single inventive concept. It is not required for purposes of finding that all of the groups relate to a single inventive concept that all of the groups share all of the same special technical features where multiple special technical features. It is sufficient that the groups share a single special technical feature. The Examiner has not shown such single special technical feature to be lacking and, therefore, has not justified this restriction requirement.

Moreover, at best, the Examiner only shows the lack of a special technical feature between Group I and each of Groups II-IV. There is no showing with respect to Groups II-III or II-IV or III-IV. In particular, Applicants point out that Groups II and III appear to be sufficiently closely related that these two groups should be combined and examined together.

An early notice that the restriction requirement is removed altogether or at least Groups II and III are combined is earnestly solicited. In such notice, Applicants request that the Examiner indicate the disposition of ungrouped claims 14, 38, 64 and 68.

Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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